


MEMORANDUM




Pete Wilson
Governor

TO: Ken Terpstra
Department of Transportation
District 4
1111 Grand Avenue
P.O. Box 23660
Oakland, CA 94623

 **EPA**

State Water
Resources
Control Board

901 P Street
Sacramento, CA
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FROM: 
Walt Pettit
for Executive Director
EXECUTIVE OFFICE

DATE: APR 30 1997

SUBJECT: CERTIFICATION UNDER CLEAN WATER ACT (CWA)
SECTION 401 CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION (CALTRANS) -- RICHMOND-SAN RAFAEL
BRIDGE SEISMIC RETROFIT PROJECT, CONTRA COSTA AND
MARIN COUNTIES

This memorandum responds to your request for CWA Section 401 Water Quality Certification in connection with the subject project. The project is to retrofit the bridge to withstand a "maximum credible seismic event". The activities include construction of temporary coffer dams around bridge supports and excavation of existing support foundations. The proposed activity will dredge approximately 219,000 cubic yards of sediment from the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge. The sediment will be disposed of at the designated Alcatraz Disposal Site (SF-11).

The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (SFBRWQCB) has reviewed the proposed project and recommended Water Quality Certification subject to conditions at its April 16, 1997 Board Meeting. Staff of the State Water Resources Control Board has reviewed the subject project and concurs with the SFBRWQCB's recommendation. I hereby certify the proposed project subject to compliance with the conditions specified in the attached SFBRWQCB Resolution Number 97-053.

If you have any questions, the staff person most knowledgeable on this subject is Marla Lafer, and she can be reached at (916) 657-0926. You may also call William Campbell, Chief of the Nonpoint Source Certification and Loans Unit, at (916) 657-1043.

Attachment



Our mission is to preserve and enhance the quality of California's water resources, and ensure their proper allocation and efficient use for the benefit of present and future generations.

Ken Terpstra

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APR 30 1997

cc: (all with attachment)

Loretta K. Barsamian
Executive Officer
California Regional Water Quality
Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region
2101 Webster Street, Suite 500
Oakland, CA 94612

Calvin Fong, Chief
Regulatory Branch
San Francisco District
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333 Market Street, Suite 812
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Jeff Rosenbloom, Chief (W-3-3)
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Carl Wilcox
Department of Fish and Game,
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2800 Cottage Way, Room E-1803
Sacramento, CA 95825-1844

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Our mission is to preserve and enhance the quality of California's water resources, and ensure their proper allocation and efficient use for the benefit of present and future generations.

Memorandum

To: Walt Pettit
Executive Director
State Water Resources Control Board

Date: APR 24 1997
File No. 2158.04 and 2118.03(TRG)

From: Loretta K. Barsamian
Executive Officer
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Francisco Bay Region
2101 Webster Street, Suite 500, Oakland, 94612

Attention: Maria Lafer, Division of Water Quality

Subject: Richmond-San Rafael Bridge Seismic Retrofit Project, Dredging, California
Department of Transportation, (Caltrans) Marin and Contra Costa Counties,
Recommendation on Water Quality Certification.

At the April 16, 1997, Regional Board meeting the Board adopted a resolution regarding the above dredging project. The proposed activity will result in the dredging and disposal of a maximum of 219,000 cubic yards of material over the next several years. The applicant has applied for a Corps 404 CWA permit for this activity.

The attached resolution recommends that disposal take place at the Alcatraz disposal site (SF-11). Potential pollutant discharges from other aspects of bridge retrofit will (e.g., paint removal, concrete slurry pumping) will be regulated under the Board's non-point NPDES and stormwater discharge program.

Transmittal of the conditioned water quality certification by the State Board's Executive Director to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is needed for issuance of a 404 permit and BCDC permit for this activity. If you have any questions regarding this memo, please contact Tom Gandesbery or my staff at (510) 286-0841 (8-541-0841).

cc: Mr. Ken Terpstra, Project Manager, Caltrans
Mr. Steve Goldbeck, BCDC
Ms. Brian Ross, USEPA
Mr. David Dwinell, USACOE

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APR-24-1997 10:45

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION**

**RESOLUTION 97-053
RECOMMENDATION
ON**

**WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
(CALTRANS)
RICHMOND-SAN RAFAEL BRIDGE
SEISMIC RETROFIT PROJECT
DREDGING AND DREDGED MATERIAL DISPOSAL
CONTRA COSTA AND MARIN COUNTIES**

WHEREAS, the State Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has applied to the Regional Board for Water Quality Certification under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act for the dredging of approximately 219,000 cubic yards of sediment from the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge. Disposal will be at the designated disposal site located off Alcatraz Island (SF-11); and,

WHEREAS, the dredging is necessary to retrofit the bridge to withstand a "maximum credible seismic event"; and,

WHEREAS, retrofitting of the bridge will require construction of temporary cofferdams around bridge supports, inside of which sediments will be excavated, and excavation of existing support foundations; and,

WHEREAS, said excavation will extend through recently deposited sediments into native soil and rock formations to depths of up to 28 feet below mean tidal elevation and,

WHEREAS, the retrofitting of the western portion of the bridge, referred to as the "concrete trestle" will require dredging of bay muds adjacent to the bridge to allow access for construction barges; and,

WHEREAS, sediments excavated as a result of the retrofit project is proposed to be disposed of at the aquatic disposal site located off Alcatraz Island ; and,

WHEREAS, sediments to be excavated during the retrofit project have been sampled and analyzed in accordance with the current multi-agency testing guidance for dredged material. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Public Notice 93-2; and,

WHEREAS, Caltrans submitted testing data for Regional Board staff review which indicate that the sediments do not contain appreciably elevated levels of pollutants as compared to bay ambient levels and do not exhibit unacceptable levels of toxicity; and,

WHEREAS, Caltrans has requested a Corps of Engineers section 404 permit to dredge sediments in and around the bridge abutments; and,

WHEREAS, Caltrans has notified the Board that this project will result in a minor amount (less than two acres) of fill as a result of increasing the areal extent of the bridge footings and foundations and staff will waive certification by letter (pursuant to Board policy, Resolution Number 87-053); and,

WHEREAS, the Regional Board under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act reviews permit applications to determine if the proposed activity will meet state water quality standards for the proposed activity; and,

WHEREAS, Water Quality Certification is a certification for an activity that requires a federal license or permit that there is reasonable assurance that the activity which may result in a discharge to navigable water of the United States will not violate water quality standards (Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Section 3830 et. seq.); and

WHEREAS, The Regional Board issued Caltrans an NPDES permit for storm water discharges associated with its construction and maintenance activities that requires preparation and implementation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan; and,

WHEREAS, The Regional Board adopted a revised Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay Basin (Basin Plan) on June 21, 1995. This plan was approved by the State Water Resources Control Board and the Office of Administrative Law on July 20 and November 13, 1995, respectively. A summary of regulatory provisions is contained in Title 23 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 3912. The Basin Plan defines beneficial uses and water quality objectives for waters of the State, including surface waters and groundwaters,

WHEREAS, Caltrans has submitted a request for water quality certification, dated March 25, 1997, for review by Regional Board staff; and,

WHEREAS, the testing reports and application submitted by Caltrans show that the proposed activity meets the water quality standards contained in the Basin Plan,

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 15302 of the Public Resources Code, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, this project is exempt from CEQA; and,

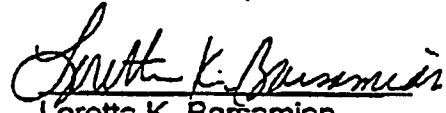
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this Regional Board recommends that the Executive Director of the State Water Resources Control Board grant Water Quality Certification in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act and State regulations in Title 23 California Code of Regulations Section 3830 et. seq. for Caltrans to dredge and dispose of 219,000 cubic yards of dredged material with disposal at the Alcatraz disposal site (SF-11).

- 1) Dredging activities (eastern portion only) will occur outside of the sensitive Pacific herring spawning season and winter-run migratory season for the Chinook salmon as determined by State Department of Fish and Game (DFG).
- 2) Overflow from barge loading is not allowed.

- 3) Aquatic disposal of sediments from excavations located in areas which are above the mean-high water line is not allowed (pier 71-74). In addition, the upper six feet from piers 75 through 77 shall not be disposed at the aquatic disposal site. Such sediments shall be disposed of an appropriate upland location.

With these conditions, this Regional Board directs the Executive Officer to transmit this resolution to the Executive Director of the State Water Resources Control Board.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that I, Loretta K. Barsamian, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, on April 16, 1997.


Loretta K. Barsamian
Executive Officer

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